



True to Life

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication

FALL 2019

ECFA BIKE & HIKE



Saturday, September 7th dawned crisp and clear. By 7:30 am, the Bike & Hike committee and volunteers began arriving at Bethesda Park in Waukesha to set-up for the ECFA's 33rd Annual Bike & Hike. Everyone was busy attending to their assigned jobs to prepare for the fundraising event.

As hands were joined in prayer, God was thanked for the beauty of the day and petitions were shared for safety for all participants and volunteers. Request was

also made for good results of the efforts to raise funds for the life-giving options presented to those He has called us to serve. Soon, the crossing guards were dismissed to the various positions along the Fox River Trail to aid those taking part.



"Do Everything In Love – I Cor 16:14" was the theme for the annual event. It is a fitting verse for the work of ECFA. The day was blessed with 119 people participating, volunteering, or both. As of the writing of the article, the funds raised are more than \$25,000, including a generous \$10,000 match given to

the agency from two anonymous sources. This was meant to inspire those participating to secure additional donations to help sustain the free assistance of Pregnancy Support Services (PSS).



After most of participants returned to the park, the premier sponsor, Cousins Subs, provided a wonderful lunch to everyone. What a joy to have a faithful business support ECFA's pro-life work and its Bike & Hike event, year after year. Thank you, Valentine Family!

During lunch, Rachel Aviles, the agency's newest PSS social worker, informed those in attendance of the first PSS Family Photo Shoot, held on Tuesday, August 27th at William F. Donnelly Park in downtown Milwaukee. At this event, volunteers graciously offered their professional services to do hair, make-up, and photography for some of ECFA's PSS moms and their families. See pictures and more of the story on page 5 of the newsletter.

The agency is so thankful for all our sponsors of the Bike & Hike.

Story continued on page 2



Winners & Prizes

Story continued from page 1

1st – Kathy Misany – Deluxe overnight stay at Ingleside Hotel & 4 Water Park Passes
2nd – Cathy Bogdanovich – 4 Brewers tickets from Grady, Hayes & Neary, LLC
3rd – David & Cheryl Dable – 4 Brewers tickets from Waukesha State Bank

Highest number of sponsors – Linda Carlson – 4 Ingleside Hotel Water Park Passes

For raising over \$300 in pledges – Cousins Subs
2-foot Party Sub – 12 Winners:
Ron & Betty Beekman, Linda Carlson, Jerry Dalton, Farrell family, Kevin & Catherine Faulls, Sue Henriksen, Steve & Sue Imhoff, Steven Ozimek, Elizabeth Smith, Tietjen family, Aurelio Vazquez, Jr., & Carol Yule

New person prize – Alan Wagner – 2 My Pillows

Anonymous Friends of ECFA with \$10,000 Match

Premier Sponsor – Cousins Subs (6 sites)

2260 N Grandview Blvd, Waukesha
2320 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha;
1700 Pearl St, Waukesha
6005 W National Ave, New Berlin;
1350 Capitol Dr, Pewaukee;
17900 Bluemound Rd, Brookfield

Financial Sponsors –

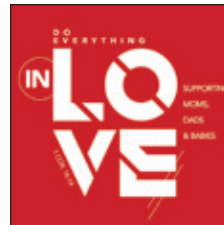
Walmart – New Berlin
First Bank Financial Centre – Oconomowoc

Major Prize Sponsors –

Grady, Hayes, Neary, LLC Attorneys at Law – Waukesha
The Ingleside Hotel & Springs Water Park – Pewaukee
Waukesha State Bank

Prize Sponsors –

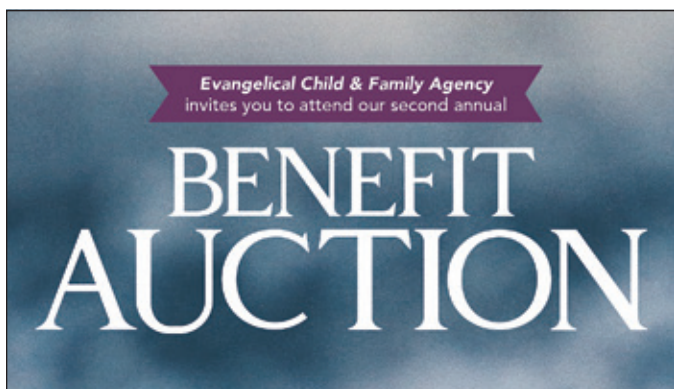
Culver's – Waukesha, W Sunset Dr
Friends of ECFA
Focus on the Family – Colorado
My Pillow – Minnesota
Sam's Club – Waukesha
Woodman's – Waukesha



ECFA and Unaffiliated Eligible Donor Choice — Option #22880



With the fall season upon us, United Way Giving Campaigns are being held with businesses. Remember, ECFA does not receive annual program funding from United Way. We only receive funds gifted through United Way Donor Choice program. Also, some employers have a “matching gift” program. Thank you to all who take part with United Way Giving campaigns through their place of work. During FY 2019, ECFA was gifted \$13,342 through 27 generous donors. Thank you, again!



Benefit Auction, November 22nd

Enclosed in the newsletter is your invitation to **ECFA's 2nd Benefit Auction**, which will be held at the **Sheraton Hotel**, 375 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield. The theme for the evening is **"Fountains of Blessings."** There will be "Live" and "Silent" Auction items to bid on for purchase. It will be an enjoyable evening for the ECFA family of giving partners to gather for fun, fellowship, and even early Christmas gift shopping, all in support of the agency!

Tickets are \$20 and a table for 10 is \$200. Doors open for viewing & bidding at 5:30 pm. There will be generous appetizers at 6:30, and a live auction at 7:30. Please RSVP soon. One week before, all items will be listed on the ECFA Auction page on the website.

Would you consider donating an item to the ECFA Auction? Please contact Jennie at the office for suggestions or see our "2019 Auction Wishlist" found on our website Auction page.



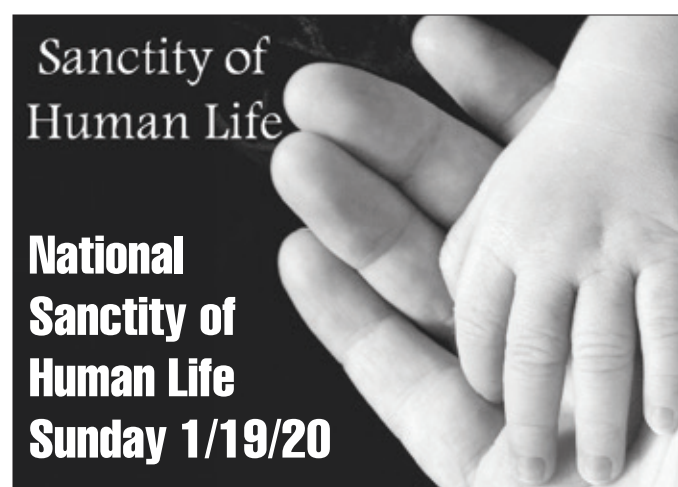
ECFA Intern

Welcome to Theresa Donahue, ECFA's undergraduate intern this fall. She is a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College majoring in human social services and psychology. She heard about ECFA and knew she wanted to be a part of it and serve here.



As she told us at ECFA, "I have always had a passion for helping people in need. I knew God's calling for me was to dedicate my life to serving others for His glory. He led me to my college where I have had the opportunity to study how to become a helping professional in a Christian environment. I am so thankful to be here and so excited to get to know such good people while developing my skills as a social worker."

She and her parents live in West Bend with her six younger brothers, two of whom are foster children. She also has an older sister who is married and out of the home. The family attends Gospel Fellowship Church of Sussex where Theresa serves on the worship team.



As the nation moves into the 46th year since Roe v. Wade case legalized abortion in America, our hearts continue to hurt and grieve this unspeakable loss. If you would like to have someone from our agency come to your church, group, or provide literature for that Sunday, please contact jenniet@ecfawisc.org or 262/789-1881.

Adoption Picnic

Sunday, August 11th began with light rain ending near 7 am. The clouds stayed, hovering in the sky, but the threatening ones dissipated. Since mid-April, the staff of ECFA had planned a picnic for our adoptive families, celebrating the 500th adoption. During our weekly prayer time, a regular request was for the weather that day...not too hot, or windy, and especially no rain.

Dawn Levan-Salveson, Social Services Supervisor, and Dorinne Geldon, Adoption Social Worker, and Jennie Tietjen, Director of Development and Facilities, arrived at the Pro Health Care Park in New Berlin at 11:30 am to set up the event. Soon two great volunteers, Jane and Dolly, came to help. By 12:55 pm, tables were covered, food was ready, coolers were filled, balloons were in place, registration with literature was organized, and prizes for the children of all ages were laid out – just in time to begin at 1 pm!



for a referral or to be matched with a birthmother. As one mom said, “Being here with all the other families means we all get each other. No one looks at your family with questions.”

Joy abounded on the soccer field as many were flying kites, blowing bubbles, and tossing balls to one another. Soon it was time to eat. Catered fried chicken, along with dishes to share from all the families and staff attending, made a nice spread!

During the meal, Dorinne, Dawn, and Jennie shared about different ministry opportunities with ECFA. Parents were invited to consider taking part in different ways, including the inaugural pre-adoption training, which will be held at the ECFA office on Saturday, October 12th. Jennie also invited them to be a part of the ECFA events, such as Brewer Buddies Night, Admirals Game, Bike & Hike, Banquet, etc.

Tom Krzystof, owner of TK Magic and an ECFA adoptive dad, rounded out the afternoon with a wonderfully entertaining, magic show that held young and old spellbound. Many exclaimed, “How did he do that?!” We had a wonderful day as many new connections were made and lasting friendships were begun.

ECFA is especially thankful to Thrivent Financial for their \$250 gift, which enabled us to host this event for no cost to the agency.



ECFA has two pages on the social media networking site. **Evangelical Child & Family Agency of Wisconsin** and **Pregnancy Support Services of Wisconsin**. News is posted from the office. We are also trying to “drive more people” to our pages. “Like” and “Share” them with friends and family who would like to hear about ECFA’s pro-life efforts.

PSS Family Photo Shoot

The first PSS Family Photo Shoot was held on Tuesday, August 27th at William F. Donnelly Park in downtown Milwaukee. At this event, volunteers graciously offered their professional services to do hair, make-up, and photography for some of ECFA's birthmothers and their families.



The moms so enjoyed the pampering that was given that day. Staff also gave them each a “swag bag.” Each included donated items of a mug, Posh products, picture frames, Walgreens gift card for copies of pictures from the day, pen, and a journal.



The children seemed to enjoy the afternoon with fresh-baked cookies, beverages, and prizes for the kids. ECFA also gifted them with backpacks and their individualized school supplies. Martha, one of the moms said, “I always know I can bring my kids to ECFA’s events because it’s for families, and I feel like a part of a family.” What a special afternoon and time for these women and their children.

It was a “picture-perfect” day! It was a day to remember, and we hope this will be the first of an annual event with our moms and families served through Pregnancy Support Services.



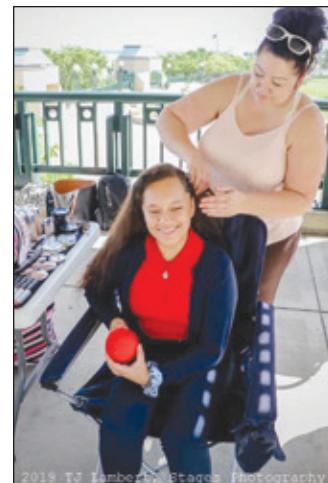
Those who donated their time, talents, and gifts: Stages Photography

Calla Bogdanovich – hair and makeup

April Latta – hair and makeup

Mike & Suzette Boltz of Hartford Creations101.com

swag bags & mugs



PSS (great) Needs at ECFA:

- Diapers: Size, 2,3,4
- Wipes
- Books: age 0-2 years
- Dr. Brown Bottles Natural Flow (small 4 oz or 5 oz, large 8 oz)
- Pants or leggings (for use with onesies) Boys & Girls-size 0 to 24 months (We have an abundance of onesies, just need bottoms to go with them.)
- Backpack Diaper Bags (see our PSS amazon wish list for example)

Christmas in July



Christmas in July is a special time of year for ECFA. It is a time to celebrate the gift of adoption through an appeal letter. This year's letter told the story of Jeff and Bethany and

their daughters' journey from Haiti. The fall newsletter is used to inform the readers of the results of the Christmas in July appeal letter. This year's appeal gifted the ministry of ECFA \$3,784 through 52 wonderful supporters. Thank you to all who gave from their hearts.



A special story tied into Christmas in July relates to Debbie Leinheiser and her daughter, Amber, when they stopped by for a visit in August. Amber was adopted 15 years ago through ECFA. Mom and daughter were taking a trip around Wisconsin, visiting family and friends and stopped by the office to see where Amber's journey began.

A smile filled all the faces as Debbie recounted how she and her husband, Eric, adopted their son, Nate in 2000. She told us how they posed in front of the Christmas in July tree before they took him home. What a perfect memory and end to their visit as Debbie and Amber stood in front of the 2019 tree!

Brewers Buddies

ECFA has always valued volunteers. Whether by handshakes, hugs, words of affirmation, or special events, their efforts are always appreciated. This summer, along with staff, clients, Bike & Hike participants and volunteers, Advisory Council members and additional guests were invited to be part of "Brewer's Buddies Night" at Miller Park. The night chosen was July 16th, a warm Tuesday evening. Our group was slightly over 100, each grateful recipient of the free ticket from the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation and the Milwaukee Brewers.

And what a game! Matched against one of the National League's best teams, the Atlanta Braves, "The Crew" pounded out a 13-1 victory. From seats in the 400 section near home plate, the ECFA group cheered enthusiastically as Mike Moustakas notched his 1000th career hit...Moosoose! Christian Yelich stroked a late-inning, grand slam homerun. More than 31,000 fans enjoyed a great evening and game.

ECFA director, Jennie Tietjen, welcomed everyone just before the game started. Several innings in, she surprised them with a choice of candy bars as a way to say, "A little treat to say thank you for all you do for ECFA."



Please consider serving or participating at ECFA this year so you can be included at the next Brewers Buddies Night in 2020. Go Brewers!!!

I.R.A. and 401K Giving Opportunity

Are you wondering how to handle your IRA and 401K Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) this year? You may already know that the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act, popularly known as the I.R.A. charitable rollover, has been made permanent. This gives you the ability to make charitable gifts directly from your IRA or 401K up to \$100,000 per year, without tax consequences and without treating the distribution as taxable income when donated directly to a qualified, charitable organization.

If you are considering a gift to ECFA Foundation, Inc., you may want to take advantage of this IRA opportunity. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can instruct your plan administrator to make a direct transfer of all or a portion of your annual RMD. The annual RMD, charitable distribution has a cap of \$100,000.

When your gift is transferred directly to the ECFA Foundation, you do not personally receive the funds, and therefore the distribution is not included in your taxable income. Your gift counts towards your minimum distribution requirement.

If you have any questions about this charitable procedure, please contact Tim Carrick, Controller at (630) 653-6400 so that he can answer your questions and provide instructions for completing your gift.



With A Grateful Heart

There is a continual outpouring of blessings received by this ministry.
As a result, there are many individuals to be grateful for in each quarterly newsletter.
"I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of the wonders." Psalm 9:1

♥ Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who assembled our Summer Newsletter mailing on July 25:

Gloria Anderson
Ron Baer
Sally Boya
Pat Bradley
Annette Cernohous
Joyce Dankert
Kathy Dow
Charlene Duranceau
Ruth Engelhardt
Nancy Farrell

Carol Honeyager
Anita Julius
Barb Pogorzelski
Karen Ridder
Nancy Roets
Dave Tietjen
Margo Whitcomb
Linda Wolf
Carol Yule

Serving at Our Office:

- ♥ Trash fence board replacement, front door repair, and fixing of broken light by Art Cernohous
- ♥ Power washing of back deck and fence, moving heavy file cabinets, and installing our new projector screen by Jim Valentine
- ♥ Painting of back deck, fence, and picnic table by Nancy Roets
- ♥ Concrete work on front steps by Jason McClure and Randy Wood

Pregnancy Support Services/Baby Blessings Boutique:

- ♥ A dinosaur baby onesie from Annette Cernohous
- ♥ Pretty little bags of personal care items for our moms from Beverly Schrieder
- ♥ Baby wash, diapers and a onesie from Carol Honeyager
- ♥ Hooded baby bath towel and rattle puppets from an anonymous donor
- ♥ 17 imprinted bags and mugs for our PSS clients from Mike & Suzette Boltz of Hartford – Creations101.com
- ♥ Hair & make-up at PSS Family Photo Shoot – Calla Bogdanovich
- ♥ Hair & make-up at PSS Family Photo Shoot – April Latta
- ♥ Stages Photography at PSS Family Photo Shoot
- ♥ 7 packages of various diapers – Life Chain, Milwaukee

Miscellaneous Gifts:

- ♥ Bright yellow copy paper for the office from Sally Boya

2019 Bike & Hike Volunteers:

- ♥ Volunteer Coordinator: Nancy Farrell
- ♥ Crossing Guards: Rachel Aviles, Ron Baer, Ruth Farrell, Kevin & Catherine Fauls, Dorinne Geldon, Friend of ECFA, Micah Knapp, Jerry & Micki Schmitz, & Dave Tietjen
- ♥ Fox River Turn-Around Hosts: Wally & Anita Julius
- ♥ Greeters: Jennie Tietjen & Sue Carlson
- ♥ Registration Table Workers: Sharon Fuller, Jamie Olson, & Becca Schwartz
- ♥ Trail On/Off Tracker: Cathy Bogdanovich
- ♥ T-shirt table: Dawn LeVan-Salveson & Rachel Aviles
- ♥ Shelter & Sign Set-Up & Take Down: The Farrell family, Micah Knapp, Pam Poglitsch, Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ Trail Runner: Brian Farrell
- ♥ Food Prep: Jim Valentine, Charlene Duranceau, Doug Kowalski & Linda Oberbrunner
- ♥ Popcorn Machine: Doug Kowalski & Pam Poglitsch
- ♥ Bicycle Check-Up Station: Doug Kowalski
- ♥ Kids' Crafts: Lead by Molly Llanas; Helpers: Michelle Dowling, Dawn LeVan-Salveson, & Becca Schwartz
- ♥ Photographer: Sean Schwartz
- ♥ Nurse: Sue Kusnierz
- ♥ Cookie Bakers: Stacy Kageff and friends from Spring Creek Church
- ♥ ECFA Bike & Hike Committee: Brian and Nancy Farrell, Ron and Jan Baer, Pam Poglitsch & Jennie Tietjen

Memorial

In loving memory of:

Robert Farrell, my friends Brian & Nancy Farrell's father
From: Carol Honeyager &
an anonymous friend of the Farrell's



amazonsmile

If you are an Amazon.com customer, you may choose **"Evangelical Child and Family Agency"** as your favorite charity on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile will donate 1/2% of your purchase to ECFA of Wisconsin. Just in time for Christmas shopping! Any questions, contact the office.



Evangelical Child
& Family Agency
1617 South 124th Street
New Berlin, WI 53151

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**FY 2019 ECFA
Annual Report Enclosed**

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**Invitation
to
ECFA's
2nd
Benefit
Auction
is inside!**

Mark Your Calendars



Benefit Auction Friday, November 22nd
Registration and Doors Open at 5:30 pm
at Sheraton 375 S Moreland Rd, Brookfield

November is National Adoption Month!
Waving \$350 Application Fee the month of November
Spread the news!
Thank God for 515 ECFA Adoptions!

National Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday, January 19, 2020

36th Anniversary Celebration Banquet
Friday, May15, 2020 ~ featuring: Point of Grace

